

WSDOT Road Construction Update for Snohomish County

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Construction to Expand I-5 Through Everett Begins: Groundbreaking Ceremony September 9

Crews recently started work on a massive three-year project to relieve congestion by expanding I-5 through Everett. Neighbors, business owners, workers, Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald, elected officials including Governor Christine Gregoire and others will help kick-off the project with a ceremonial [groundbreaking](#) on Friday, September 9 at 1:30 p.m., near I-5 and 41st Street, in Everett.

The I-5 expansion will add a lane in both directions between 41st Street to U.S. 2, six miles of northbound carpool lanes from Highway 526 to U.S. 2 and 4.6 miles of southbound carpool lanes from Marine View Drive to Highway 526. Crews will also build a new northbound right-hand exit to Broadway Avenue, widen 16 bridges, build or replace 5 bridges, complete other on- and off-ramp improvements and more.

Crews have already started preparing I-5 for construction activities. This week they will install temporary light poles. They will also close the two left lanes on northbound I-5 between Lowell Bridge and the 41st Street Bridge from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., Monday through Thursday nights to shift traffic lanes east for construction. Drivers are encouraged to slow down and pay close attention when driving through the work zone. Watch for shifted traffic lanes, new barriers and barrels, and closed lanes and shoulders.

I-5 Everett: Crews Test New Machine to Minimize Ghost Stripes

Crews expanding I-5 through Everett shifted lanes of traffic last week to make room for construction. They tested a pioneering piece of construction equipment to remove old freeway stripes, which will help keep drivers safe by minimizing ghost stripes.

When they must remove lane markings off of pavement, construction crews working for WSDOT usually grind them off, which can unavoidably strip away up to a quarter inch of pavement. The depressions that remain are still visible to some drivers, particularly at night or when they fill with water. This remaining evidence of old lane lines is often called ghost stripes.

The new tool to minimize ghost stripes is a hydroblaster and it works just like it sounds - by blasting white and yellow lane lines and raised pavement markings away with 40,000 pounds per square inch (psi) of water. The typical home pressure washer provides about 2,500 psi. A vacuum attached to the back end of the hydroblaster slurps up the paint and the water to help protect the environment.

Results from I-5 in Everett indicate that the hydroblaster shows great promise. The hydroblaster minimized evidence of former pavement stripes and was significantly quieter than the old grinding process. WSDOT and private sector contractors are still assessing the results. Currently, more widespread hydroblaster use is limited because only one is available in the Pacific Northwest.

Nighttime Pavement Work Begins on US 2 near Monroe

This month crews will begin important work on [US 2 between 179th Ave. and Woods Creek](#) to improve traffic flow and give drivers a safer and smoother ride through Monroe. To complete this work, crews will [close](#) both directions of US 2 in Monroe overnight starting Monday, September 12. We expect to wrap up this work by October 2005.

New signals will be coordinated with railroad crossings to reduce traffic backups on side roads. Installation of traffic cameras will allow commuters to monitor traffic online. Traffic curbs and medians will replace two-way left-turn lanes to help reduce the risk of accidents and accident-related traffic jams. We will also replace badly rutted pavement, which collects standing water during wet weather. These enhancements will prevent more disruptive and costly future repairs for decades to come.

SR 9 Widening: Trees Reused To Help Salmon

Crews working for WSDOT, Snohomish County PUD and other companies in King County continue to remove trees and relocate utilities to make room for [new lanes](#) on SR 9 between SR 522 and 212th Street. WSDOT, is working with Snohomish and King Counties to reuse trees from the construction site to help restore fish habitat in the Little Bear Creek watershed. The downed trees are strategically placed in the watershed to shade parts of salmon bearing streams. This helps salmon and other creatures thrive.

In addition, crews working for WSDOT are building three retention ponds near the road that will store and filter highway stormwater runoff before it is slowly released into area streams and wetlands. This will reduce the potential for flooding. Workers will also install drainage culverts on 240th St. S.E. and along Woodinville – Snohomish Road, across from Costco.

Watch for Intermittent Weekday Closures on SR 9

As relocation continues and construction begins to heat up, drivers can expect single lane intermittent closures on SR 9 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drivers can also expect intermittent lane and shoulder closures on Woodinville-Snohomish Road in front of Costco, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. While we don't expect long delays we encourage drivers to plan ahead and to use alternate routes if possible.

SR 527 Widening: Workers Pave Way for Drivers

We have completed about 60 percent of this project, which will improve traffic flow and enhance safety. We completed widening and paving the east half of the roadway at the northern end of the project from 121st Street S.E. to 112th Street S.E. Now our crews are making progress on the west half of this same section of SR 527. Crews are also working on the final layer of [paving](#) on the south end of the project from 132nd Street S.E. to 121st Street S.E. Weather permitting work will be completed by the end of the month.

To complete this work crews will shift lanes on the highway between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. One lane will remain open in each direction at all times.

How to Learn More about Highway Construction in Snohomish County

You can find updated information about highway projects by visiting our [report](#) and our [Snohomish County projects list](#).

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